

# 1 MACCABEES 1



**1611 King James Version**

*Compiled By M. Love*

# **1 Maccabees 1**

Love-Light Press  
and Studios, 2025

Also Read **1 Maccabees** in the  
1535 Coverdale, 1537 Matthew's,  
1539 Taverner's, 1540 Great Bible,  
and the 1560 Geneva Bible versions.

**1:1** And it happened, after that  
Alexander son of Philip, the  
Macedonian, who came out of the  
land of Chettum, had smitten  
Darius king of the Persians and  
Medes, that he reigned in his  
stead, the first over Greece,  
**1:2** And made many wars, and  
won many strong holds, and slew  
the kings of the earth,  
**1:3** And went through to the ends  
of the earth, and took spoils of  
many nations, insomuch, that the  
earth was quiet before him,  
whereupon he was exalted, and  
his heart was lifted up.

## 1 MACCABEES 1

**1:4** And he gathered a mighty strong host, and ruled over countries, and nations and kings, who became tributaries unto him.

**1:5** And after these things he fell sick, and perceived that he should die.

**1:6** Wherefore he called his servants, such as were honourable, and had been brought up with him from his youth, and parted his kingdom among them, while he was yet alive.

**1:7** So Alexander reigned twelve years, and (then) died.

**1:8** And is servants bare rule every one in his place.

**1:9** And after his death they all put crowns upon themselves so did their sons after them, many years, and evils were multiplied in the earth.

## 1 MACCABEES 1

**1:10** And there came out of them a wicked root, Antiochus surnamed Epiphanes, son of Antiochus the king, who had been an hostage at Rome, and he reigned in the hundredth and thirty and seventh year of the kingdom of the Greeks.

**1:11** In those days went there out of Israel wicked men, who persuaded many, saying, Let us go, and make a covenant with the heathen, that are round about us: for since we departed from them, we have had much sorrow.

**1:12** So this device pleased them well.

**1:13** Then certain of the people were so forward herein, that they went to the king, who gave them license to do after the ordinances of the heathen.

## 1 MACCABEES 1

**1: 14** Whereupon they built a place of exercise at Jerusalem, according to the customs of the heathen,

**1: 15** And made themselves, uncircumcised, and forsook the holy covenant, and joined themselves to the heathen, and were sold to do mischief.

**1: 16** Now when the kingdom was established, before Antiochus, he thought to reign over Egypt that he might have the dominion of two realms:

**1: 17** Wherefore he entered into Egypt with a great multitude, with chariots, and elephants, and horsemen, and a great navy,

**1: 18** And made war against Ptoleme king of Egypt, but Ptoleme was afraid of him, and fled: and many were wounded to death.

## 1 MACCABEES 1

**1:19** Thus they got the strong cities in the land of Egypt, and he took the spoils thereof.

**1:20** And after that Antiochus had smitten Egypt, he returned again in the hundred forty and third year, and went up against Israel and Jerusalem with a great multitude,

**1:21** And entered proudly into the sanctuary, and took away the golden altar, and the candlestick of light, and all the vessels thereof,

**1:22** And the table of the shewbread, and the pouring vessels, and the vials. and the censers of gold, and the veil, and the crown, and the golden ornaments that were before the temple, all which he pulled off.

**1:23** He took also the silver and the gold, and the precious

## 1 MACCABEES 1

**vessels: also he took the hidden treasures which he found:**

**1:24** **And when he had taken all away, he went into his own land, having made a great massacre, and spoken very proudly.**

**1:25** **Therefore there was a great mourning in Israel, in every place where they were;**

**1:26** **So that the princes and elders mourned, the virgins and young men were made feeble, and the beauty of women was changed.**

**1:27** **Every bridegroom took up lamentation, and she that sat in the marriage chamber, was in heaviness.**

**1:28** **The land also was moved for the inhabitants thereof, and all the house of Jacob was covered with confusion.**

## 1 MACCABEES 1

**1:29** And after two years fully expired, the king sent his chief collector of tribute unto the cities of Juda, who came unto Jerusalem with a great multitude,  
**1:30** And spake peaceable words unto them, but all was deceit: for when they had given him credence, he fell suddenly upon the city, and smote it very sore, and destroyed much people of Israel.

**1:31** And when he had taken the spoils of the city, he set it on fire, and pulled down the houses, and walls thereof on every side.

**1:32** But the women and children took they captive, and possessed the cattle.

**1:33** Then builded they the city of David with a great and strong wall, and with mighty towers, and made it a strong hold for them,

## 1 MACCABEES 1

**1:34** And they put therein a sinful nation, wicked men, and fortified themselves therein.

**1:35** They stored it also with armour and victuals, and when they had gathered together the spoils of Jerusalem, they laid them up there, and so they became a sore snare:

**1:36** For it was a place to lie in wait against the Sanctuary, and an evil adversary to Israel.

**1:37** Thus they shed innocent blood on every side of the Sanctuary, and defiled it.

**1:38** Insomuch that the inhabitants of Jerusalem fled because of them, whereupon the city was made an habitation of strangers, and became strange to those that were born in her, and her own children left her.

## 1 MACCABEES 1

**1:39** Her Sanctuary was laid waste like a wilderness, her feasts were turned into mourning, her Sabbaths into reproach, her honour into contempt.

**1:40** As had been her glory, so was her dishonour increased, and her excellency was turned into mourning.

**1:41** Moreover king Antiochus wrote to his whole kingdom, that all should be one people,

**1:42** And every one should leave his laws: so all the heathen agreed, according to the commandment of the king.

**1:43** Yea many also of the Israelites consented to his religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and profaned the Sabbath.

**1:44** For the king had sent letters by messengers unto Jerusalem, and the cities of Juda that they

**should follow the strange laws of  
the land,**

**1:45 And forbid burnt offerings,  
and sacrifice, and drink offerings  
in the temple; and that they  
should profane the Sabbaths and  
festival days:**

**1:46 And pollute the Sanctuary  
and holy people:**

**1:47 Set up altars, and groves,  
and chapels of idols, and  
sacrifice swine's flesh, and  
unclean beasts:**

**1:48 That they should also leave  
their children uncircumcised, and  
make their souls abominable with  
all manner of uncleanness, and  
profanation:**

**1:49 To the end they might forget  
the Law, and change all the  
ordinances.**

**1:50 And whosoever would not  
do according to the**

**commandment of the king he said  
he should die.**

**1:51 In the self same manner  
wrote he to his whole kingdom,  
and appointed overseers over all  
the people, commanding the  
cities of Juda to sacrifice, city by  
city.**

**1:52 Then many of the people  
were gathered unto them, to wit,  
every one that forsook the Law,  
and so they committed evils in  
the land:**

**1:53 And drove the Israelites into  
secret places, even wheresoever  
they could flee for succour.**

**1:54 Now the fifteenth day of the  
month Casleu, in the hundredth  
forty and fifth year, they set up  
the abomination of desolation  
upon the Altar, and builded idol  
altars throughout the cities of  
Juda, on every side;**

## 1 MACCABEES 1

**1:55** And burnt incense at the doors of their houses, and in the streets.

**1:56** And when they had rent in pieces the books of the Law which they found, they burnt them with fire.

**1:57** And wheresoever was found with any, the book of the Testament, or if any consented to the Law, the king's commandment was, that they should put him to death.

**1:58** Thus did they by their authority, unto the Israelites every month, to as many as were found in the cities.

**1:59** Now the five and twentieth day of the month, they did sacrifice upon the idol altar, which was upon the Altar of God.

**1:60** At which time, according to the commandment, they put to

**death certain women that had caused their children to be circumcised.**

**1:61**  **And they hanged the infants about their necks, and rifled their houses, and slew them that had circumcised them.**

**1:62** **Howbeit, many in Israel were fully resolved and confirmed in themselves, not to eat any unclean thing.**

**1:63** **Wherfore they chose rather to die, that they might not be defiled with meats, and that they might not profane the holy Covenant: So then they died.**

**1:64** **And there was very great wrath upon Israel.**

## The 1535 Coverdale Bible Version

## The first Chapter.



After that Alexander the sonne  
of philippe, kyng of Macedo-  
nia wente forth of the londe of  
Cethim, and slew Darius kyng  
of the persias and Iudees:  
It happened, that he toke greate warres in  
honde, wanne very many stronge cities, and  
slew many kinges of y earth: goinge thorow  
to y endes of the wold, and gettinge many  
spoyles of the people: In so moch, y the worl-  
de stode in greate awe of him, & therfore was  
he proude in his herte. Now whē he had ga-  
thered a myghtic strōge host, & subdued y  
lōdes and people with their prynces, so that  
they became tributaries vnto hi: he fell sick.  
And whē he perceaued that he must nedes  
die, he called for his noble estates (which had  
bene brought vp with him of children) & par-  
ted his kyngdome amonge them, whyle he  
was yet aliyue. So Alexander raygned xij. yea-  
re, and then dyed.

## The 1535 Coverdale Bible Version

After his death fell the kyngdome vnto his prynces, and they optayned it euery one in his rorome, and caused them selues to be crowned as kynges: and so dyd their childre after them many yeares, & moch wickednesse increased in the worlde. Out of these came yngelis vngracious rote, noble Antiochus y sonne of Antiochus the kyng ( which had bene a pledge at Rome) & he raigned in y Cxxvij. yeares of the raigne of the Greces.

In those dayes wete there out of Israel wicked men, which moued moch people vnto their coulcel, sayenge: Let vs go & make a conuenant with the heithen, y are rounde aboute vs: for sence we departed from them, we haue had moch sorrow. So this deuyce pleased them well, and certayne of y people toke vpon the for to go vnto y kyng, whiche gaue them licence to do after the ordinance of the heithen. Then set they vp an open sca

## The 1535 Coverdale Bible Version

Ie (at Jerusalem) of the lawes of the Zeythē,  
and were nomore circumcised: but forsoke y  
holy Testamente, and ioyned them selues to  
y Zeythē, z were cleane soldē to do myschefē.

So when Antiochus beganne to be migh  
tie in his Kyngdome, he wente abouit to op  
tayne y londe of Egipce also, that he migh  
haue the dominion of two realmes. Upon  
this entred he in to Egipce with a stronge  
hoost, with charettes, elephantes, horsmen, z  
a greate nombre of shippes, and beganne to  
warre agaynst Ptolomy the kyng of Egip  
te. But ptolomy was astayed of him, and  
fled: and many of his people were wounded  
to death. Thus Antiochus wāne many strē  
ge cities, and toke awaie great good out of  
the londe of Egipce.

And after that Antiochus had smitten  
Egipce, he turned agayne in the Cxliij. yeare  
z wente towarde Israel, and came vp to Je  
rusalem with a mightie people: and entred  
proudly into y Sanctuary, and toke appa

## The 1535 Coverdale Bible Version

the golden altare, the candlesticke and allyn  
ornamētes therof: the table of the shewbred  
the pouringe vessel, the chargers, the golden  
spones, the vale, the crownes and golden ap-  
parel of the temple, and brake downe all. he  
toke also the syluer and golde, the precious  
Jewels, and the secret treasures that he fou-  
de. And when he had taken awaie all toge-  
ther, caused a greate mirthur of men, and  
so fulfilled his malicious pryde, he departed  
in to his owne londe.

Thus there arose greate hemynesse and mi-  
sery in all the londe of Israel. The prynces  
and the elders of the people mourned, the y-  
gemen and the maydens were defyled, and  
the fayre beutye of women was changed:  
the brydegrome and the bryde toke them to  
mournyng: the londe and thosethat dwel-  
therin, was moued: for all the house of Je-  
cob was brought to confucion.

The 1535 Coverdale Bible Version



After two yeares the kyng sent his che-  
f treasurer vnto the cities of Iuda, which  
came to Jerusalem with a greate multitude  
of people, speakeinge peaceable wordes vnto  
the, but all was disceare: for when they had  
gauen him credence, he fell sodely vpon the  
cite, and smote it sore, and destroyed moch  
people of Israel. And when he had spoyled

## The 1535 Coverdale Bible Version

the cite, he set fyre on it, castinge downe hou-  
ses and walles on euery syde. The women &  
their children toke they captiue, and led a-  
waye their catell. Then buylded they the cas-  
tel of David with a greate and thicke wall,  
and with myghtie towres, & made it a stron-  
ge holde for them. Besyde all this they sett  
wicked people and vngodly men to kepe it,  
staured it with weapens and vytaleys: gathe-  
red the goodes of Jerusalem, and layed the  
up there: thus became it a theuylsh castell.

And this was done to laye waite for the  
people that wente in to the Sanctuary, and  
for the cruell destruccion of Israel. Thus  
they shed innocent bloude on euery syde of y  
Sanctuary, and defyled it: In somodh that  
the citesyns were fayne to departe, and the  
cite became an habitacion of straungers,  
beynge desolate of hir owne sede, for hir owo  
natiues were fayne to leaue her. hir Sac-  
tuary was cleane waisted, hir holy dayes we-  
re turned into mournyng, hir Sabbathes  
were had in derision, and hir heyns brought

## The 1535 Coverdale Bible Version

to naught. Lotte how greate hir glory was afore, so greate was hir confucion, and hir ioye turned in to sorow.

Antiochus also the Kyng sent out a commision vnto all his kyngdome, that all the people shulde be one. Then they left euery man his lawe, and all the heithen agreed to the comandement of Kyng Antiochus: But many of the Israelites consented there vnto, offerynge vnto Idols, and defylinge the Sabbath. So the Kyng Antiochus sent his messaungers with his commision vnto Jerusalem, and to all þ cities of Iuda: that they shulde folowe þ lawes of the heithen, and forbade ether burnt offerynge, meatofferynge or peaceofferynge to be made in the temple of God, & that there shulde no Sabbath ner hys feast daye be kepte: but commaunded, that the Sanctuary and the holly people of Israel shulde be defyled.

He commaunded also that there shulde be set vp other altares, temples and Idols: to offre vp swynes flesh and other vnclene beastes.

## The 1535 Coverdale Bible Version

beastes: that men shulde leau their children  
uncircumcised, to defyle their soules with  
all maner of viciennesse & abhominacions:  
that they might so forget the lawe, and  
change all the holy ordinances of God:  
and that who so euer wolde not do a cordyn-  
ge to the commaundement of kyng Antio-  
chus, shulde suffre death. In like maner  
commaunded he thorow out all his realme,  
and sett rulers ouer the people, for to com-  
pell them to do these thynges, commaundin-  
ge the cities of Iuda to do sacrifice vnto  
Idols.

Then wente the people vnto the heil-  
then by heapes, forsoke the lawe of the LOR-  
DE, and committed moch euell in the londe:  
yee and chased out the secrete Israelite,  
which had hyd them selues in corners and  
priuy places. The xv. daye of the moneth  
Castell, in the Cxlv. yeare, set kyng Antio-  
chus an abhominable Idol of desolacion v-  
pon the altare of God, and they buylded al-  
tares thorow out all the cities of Iuda on  
every syde, before the dores of the houses,  
and in the stretes: where they bient incen-

## The 1535 Coverdale Bible Version

se, and dyd sacrifice. And as for the booke  
of the lawe of God, they brent them in the  
fyre, and rente them in peces. What so ever,  
he was that had a booke of the Testament  
of the L O R D E founde by hym, yee who so  
ever contenedore him self to kepe the lawe of  
the L O R D E, the Kynges commaundement  
was, þ they shulde put him to death. And  
thorow his anctonite they executed these  
thinges cuery moneth, vpon the people of  
Iſrael that were founde in the cities.

The fyue and twentye daye of the mo-  
neth, what tyme as they dyd sacrifice v-  
pon the altare (which stode in the steade of  
the altare of the L O R D E) accoidinge to  
the commaundement of kyng Antiochus,  
they put certayne women to death, which  
had caused their children to be circumcised:  
Not only that, but they hanged vp the chil-  
dren by the neckes thorow out all their how-  
ses, and slew the circumcisers of them.

Yet were there many of the people of Iſ-

The 1535 Coverdale Bible Version

rael, which determined in them selues, that they wolde not eate vncleane thinges: but chose rather to suffre death, then to be defyled with vncleane meates. So because they wolde not breake the blessed lawe of God, they were cruelly slayne. And this greately raigny increased very soie vpon the people of Israel.